

MINUTES OF THE  
ASSESSING STANDARDS BOARD  
SUB-COMMITTEE

**Approved as Written**

**DATE:** February 1, 2016

**TIME:** 9:35 a.m.

**LOCATION:** NH Dept. of Revenue, 109 Pleasant Street, Concord, NH.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Betsey Patten, Public Member, Chairman  
Jim Wheeler, Designate, Municipal Official, City  
Stephan Hamilton, Designate, DRA Commissioner  
Representative Patrick Abrami

Representative Mark Proulx  
Eric Stohl, Municipal Official, Towns <3,000 ~ *Absent*  
Robert Gagne, NHA AO

**MEMBERS of the PUBLIC:**

Jim Michaud, Town of Hudson  
Loren Martin, Avitar  
Len Gerzon, ASB  
Ellen Scarponi, Fairpoint  
Maura Weston  
Teresa Rosenberger, Devine Millimet  
Joseph Devarenne, Concord

Scott Dickman, NHDRA  
Andrew Kingman, AT & T  
Bill Stafford, Granite State Tel.  
Cordell Johnston, NHMA  
Cindy Brown, BTLA  
Kevin O'Quinn, Fairpoint

Chairman Patten convened the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

Introductions followed.

**Minutes**

A change was made to the minutes of January 25, 2015 on page 2, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph: after "All agreed that conduit be added....." The sentence "**Motion passed 5 – 2.**" was inserted. Further, the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph "However, all agreed..." was deleted. ***Mr. Robert Gagne made a motion to approve the minutes, and Representative Abrami seconded. Motion to approve minutes as amended passed.***

**21-J:14-b Powers and Duties of the Board**

Chairman Patten read 21-J:14-b (e) into the record with suggested wording changes. A discussion followed regarding the word choices and the order they would appear in (e).

**Mr. Wheeler's Presentation**

Mr. Wheeler did a presentation on how geology can be reasonably taken into consideration for the telecom pole cost model. A discussion, along with questions, followed regarding his findings including the impact of the presence of bedrock on the cost of pole installation, his findings after contacting JCR Construction and the Assistant State Soil Scientist, the NRCS website as well as images reflecting the geology make up.

Representative Abrami advised that while he appreciated what Mr. Wheeler's presentation was trying to do, he

did not feel they need this kind of precision. He further advised he was concerned about one town benefiting more than another town because of the amount of granite; and felt it would make things more complex and would probably not vote for this.

#### **Discussion on 30 year/20% Floor**

Representative Abrami then spoke of depreciation and residual value. He advised his bill originally called for a 30 year life and a 20% floor residual value. He asked to hear a discussion on why these would not be good numbers to use. A discussion then followed with different thoughts/input on the pros and cons of 30/20 as well as other figure combinations. Representative Abrami also asked that the other stakeholders (from the public) i.e. Fairpoint, AT & T, New England Telephone, Granite State Tel. etc. weigh in on the discussion.

#### **74:19 Inventories of Telecommunications Poles and Conduits**

A brief discussion ensued regarding the wording under 74:19 (c). Chairman Patten asked that the industry please consider if format or cost should be added into requirement (c) of 74:19.

#### **Age and Floor of the Pole Discussion**

Mr. Bob Gagne advised that if the pole life is 45 or 50 years, he could live with a 20% floor; however if it's going to be a 30 year life, he cannot live with the 20% floor. He does not feel that would be fair or reasonable. The regional averages were then discussed; and Mr. Scott Dickman suggested 35 years to put them on an economic footing. Representative Proulx asked what Mr. Gagne thought would be a good reasonable number on both. Mr. Gagne advised that the shorter the life expectancy the higher the residual should be. He suggested that if dealing with a floor of 20% then a reasonable period of time to depreciate over should be 50 years. Chairman Patten stated that 35 – 45 could be justified under market – there is support for that. Mr. Steve Hamilton advised 35 years and think about what the floor should be. Representative Abrami would consider 35 and further advised that he could probably live with 35 & 20. Mr. Gagne advised that it appeared least likely that the floor of 20% would be different; therefore he felt the reasonable life should then be 40 years. Chairman Patten stated a 40 year life could be supported. She also stated that the age and floor needs to be in the bill.

**Mr. Steve Hamilton moved to adjourn the meeting and Representative Proulx seconded at 11:35 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth McGill  
NH Department of Revenue Administration – Municipal and Property Division

Documentation relative to the Assessing Standards Board may be submitted, requested or reviewed by:

Telephone: (603) 230-5967  
Facsimile: (603) 230-5947  
Web: [www.revenue.nh.gov](http://www.revenue.nh.gov)  
E-mail: [asb@dra.nh.gov](mailto:asb@dra.nh.gov)

In person at:  
109 Pleasant Street, Concord  
In writing to:  
NH Department of Revenue  
Assessing Standards Board  
PO Box 487  
Concord, NH 03302-0487